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~~Top Secret~~

POLAND: Planned Increase in Western Imports

Warsaw has decided to increase imports from the West in the second quarter by 20 percent over previously planned levels. Poland ran a trade surplus in the first quarter to make some payments on its debt and earlier had planned to run a \$250 million surplus in the second quarter.

[REDACTED]

Comment: The increase in imports would bring trade with the West into balance and would ease severe shortages of industrial materials and spare parts. These shortages have hampered economic recovery and have helped idle 40 percent of the country's manufacturing capacity. The decision to forego a hard currency trade surplus, however, will make it difficult for Poland to make any payments on its massive debt obligations.

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